

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-8 and add new claims 9-17 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (New). A fixing device, comprising:

a heating roller which applies heat onto a non-fixed toner image formed on a recording medium so as to fuse said non-fixed toner image, wherein said heating roller is rotatably supported  
5 on a shaft so that a circumferential surface of said heating roller contacts said recording medium, which bears said non-fixed toner image, while rotating; and

a temperature detecting unit that includes a temperature detecting element to detect a surface temperature of said  
10 circumferential surface of said heating roller, and a support member on which said temperature detecting element is mounted at a detecting position;

wherein said temperature detecting unit is disposed in such a manner that said support member press-contacts said  
15 circumferential surface of said heating roller at a contacting position residing on said support member in a rotating direction of said heating roller; and

wherein said detecting position is located upstream from said contacting position in said rotating direction of said  
20 heating roller.

Claim 10 (New). The fixing device of claim 9,  
wherein said support member comprises an elastic material and said support member press-contacts said circumferential surface by means of elastic deformation of said support member.

Claim 11 (New). The fixing device of claim 9,  
wherein a distance between said detecting position and said contacting position is at most equal to 1.0 mm in said rotating direction of said heating roller.

Claim 12 (New). The fixing device of claim 9,  
wherein a heat-resistant film is disposed between said temperature detecting element and said circumferential surface of said heating roller.

Claim 13 (New). The fixing device of claim 9,  
wherein a distance between said detecting position and said  
contacting position is adjustable.

Claim 14 (New). The fixing device of claim 9,  
wherein said support member has a plate-shape, and an end  
portion of said support member is fixed rigidly, while another  
end portion of said support member press-contacts said  
5 circumferential surface at said contacting position in said  
rotating direction of said heating roller.

Claim 15 (New). The fixing device of claim 14,  
wherein said support member includes two plate members, and  
said temperature detecting element is supported between said two  
plate members.

Claim 16 (New). The fixing device of claim 15,  
wherein said two plate members are covered with a  
heat-resistant film so that said support member press-contacts  
said circumferential surface through said heat-resistant film.

Claim 17 (New). An image forming apparatus, comprising  
an image forming section which forms a non-fixed toner image  
on a recording medium; and

a fixing device which fixes said non-fixed toner image,  
5 formed by said image forming section, onto said recording medium;  
wherein said fixing device, comprises:

a heating roller which applies heat onto said non-fixed  
toner image formed on said recording medium so as to fuse said  
non-fixed toner image, wherein said heating roller is rotatably  
10 supported on a shaft so that a circumferential surface of said  
heating roller contacts said recording medium, which bears said  
non-fixed toner image, while rotating; and

a temperature detecting unit that includes a  
temperature detecting element to detect a surface temperature of  
15 said circumferential surface of said heating roller, and a  
support member on which said temperature detecting element is  
mounted at a detecting position;

wherein said temperature detecting unit is disposed in such  
a manner that said support member press-contacts said  
20 circumferential surface of said heating roller at a contacting  
position residing on said support member in a rotating direction  
of said heating roller; and

Appln. No. 10/797,687  
Amendment dated December 27, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of September 28, 2005

wherein said detecting position is located upstream from  
said contacting position in said rotating direction of said  
25 heating roller.